

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 10 are independent. The Specification has been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of Double Patenting over claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent 6,637,786. Since the claims, if allowed, would improperly extend the "right to exclude" already granted in the patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, a Terminal Disclaimer has been provided for the Examiner's consideration. Applicant submits that the Terminal Disclaimer overcomes the Examiner's double patenting rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-17 have only been rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting. In view of the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer to address the Examiner's double patenting rejection, it is believed that claims 1-17 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and

early allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

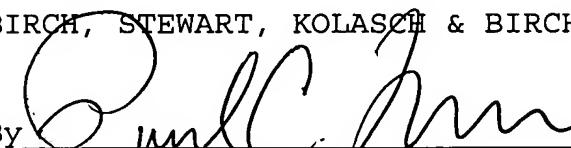
Since the references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no further comments are deemed necessary with respect thereto.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number 703-205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Paul C. Lewis, #43,368
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

PCL/mlr
0505-1210P

Attachment(s): Terminal Disclaimer